

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

CHRISTOPHER L. DECOTEAU,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROBERT HOUSTON, MICHAEL
KINNEY, Director, RANDY KOHL,
Medical Director, DIANE SABAKA
RHINE, Warden, CHRISTINE
FERGUSON, Doctor, and CHARLES
LOREN, Eye Clinic,

Defendants.

4:14CV3165

**MEMORANDUM
AND ORDER**

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis ("IFP"). (Filing No. [2](#).) The court has received a certified copy of Plaintiff's trust account information. (Filing No. [6](#).) Plaintiff is permitted to proceed IFP.

Pursuant to the Prison Litigation Reform Act, a prisoner plaintiff is required to pay the full amount of the court's \$350.00 filing fee by making monthly payments to the court, even if the prisoner is proceeding IFP. [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)](#). "[T]he PLRA makes prisoners responsible for their filing fees the moment the prisoner brings a civil action or files an appeal." [In re Tyler, 110 F.3d 528, 529-30 \(8th Cir. 1997\)](#); [Jackson v. N.P. Dodge Realty Co., 173 F. Supp. 2d 951 \(D. Neb. 2001\)](#).

Pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(1\)](#), Plaintiff must pay an initial partial filing fee in the amount of 20 percent of the greater of Plaintiff's average monthly account balance or average monthly deposits for the six months preceding the filing of the complaint. Accordingly, the court finds that the initial partial filing fee is \$5.60, based on an average monthly account balance of \$28.03. Plaintiff must pay this

initial partial filing fee within 30 days from the date of this Memorandum and Order. If the court does not receive payment by this deadline, this matter **will be dismissed**. Plaintiff may request an extension of time if needed.

In addition to the initial partial filing fee, Plaintiff must “make monthly payments of 20 percent of the preceding month’s income credited to the prisoner’s account.” [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(2\)](#). The statute places the burden on the prisoner’s institution to collect the additional monthly payments and forward them to the court as follows:

After payment of the initial partial filing fee, the prisoner shall be required to make monthly payments of 20 percent of the preceding month’s income credited to the prisoner’s account. The agency having custody of the prisoner shall forward payments from the prisoner’s account to the clerk of the court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10 until the filing fees are paid.

[28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(2\)](#). Therefore, after payment in full of the initial partial filing fee, the remaining installments shall be collected pursuant to this procedure.

The clerk’s office shall send a copy of this Memorandum and Order to the appropriate financial official at Plaintiff’s institution. Plaintiff will remain responsible for the entire filing fee, as long as he is a prisoner, even if the case is dismissed at some later time. See [In re Tyler, 110 F.3d at 529-30](#); [Jackson, 173 F. Supp. 2d at 951](#).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to Proceed IFP (Filing No. [2](#)) is granted.

2. Plaintiff shall pay an initial partial filing fee of \$5.60 within 30 days from the date of this Memorandum and Order, unless an enlargement of time is granted in response to a written motion. If the initial partial filing fee is not received by the specified deadline, this case **will be dismissed**.

3. After payment of the initial partial filing fee, Plaintiff's institution shall collect the additional monthly payments in the manner set forth in [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(2\)](#), quoted above, and shall forward those installments to the court.

4. The clerk's office is directed to send a copy of this order to the appropriate official at Plaintiff's institution.

5. The clerk's office is directed to set a pro se case management deadline in this case using the following text: **September 19, 2014**: initial partial filing fee payment due.

6. Plaintiff shall keep the court informed of his current address at all times, and all parties are bound by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and by the court's Local Rules while this case is pending.

DATED this 15th day of August, 2014.

BY THE COURT:

s/ John M. Gerrard
United States District Judge

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